

# **NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)**

\*\*\* Proposed Site\*\*\*

March 2012

## Cedar Chemical Corporation | West Helena, Arkansas

Phillips County

## Site Location:

The Cedar Chemical site is an abandoned chemical manufacturing facility located in Phillips County, Arkansas, just south of West Helena, Arkansas. The site consists of approximately 48 acres along State Highway 242, 1 mile southwest of the intersection of U. S. Highway 49 and Highway 242. The site is in the Helena-West Helena Industrial Park and consists of six former production units, support facilities, and an office on the north side of Industrial Park Road. A biological treatment system is located south of Industrial Park Road. Arkansas Highway 242 to the northwest, a Union Pacific railway to the northeast, and other industrial park properties to the southeast and southwest bound the site

## △ Site History:

The Facility was constructed and initially operated by Helena Chemical in 1970. The Facility was purchased by Jerry Williams who formed Eagle River Chemical to operate the Facility. Ansul states on its website that they acquired Eagle River Chemical in 1971. The Facility was operated for approximately 18 months by Ansul under the name of Eagle River Chemical. During this time period, dinoseb was produced on the site. The Facility from 1971 to 2002 manufactured or processed a variety of agricultural and organic chemicals under various owners and operators. The last owner of record was Cedar Chemical Corporation.

#### **■** Site Contamination/Contaminants:

During its operational life, Cedar Chemical manufactured various agricultural chemicals, including insecticides, herbicides, polymers, and organic intermediates. Plant processes were batch operations, with seasonal production fluctuations and the frequent introduction of new products. Chemical processing at the production units included alkylation, amidation, carbamoylation, chlorination, distillation, esterification, acid and base hydrolysis, and polymerization On March 8, 2002, Cedar Chemical Corporation filed for bankruptcy. Manufacturing and plantoperations were shut down shortly thereafter. ADEQ assumed control of the Facility on October 12, 2002, and currently acts as the caretaker of the Facility. Currently, the Facility remains abandoned while security guards provide 24 hour maintenance within the fenced area.

## ## Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:

There is a documented release to wetlands, commercial and recreational fisheries are located in downstream waters. Without remediation of the site releases will continue to impact downstream surface waters.

## Response Activities (to date):

No removals or response measures have taken place at this site. Since 2001 all on-site tanks have collapsed and

### **■** Need for NPL Listing:

The Governor of Arkansas has requested Cedar Chemical Corporation be placed on the NPL using Arkansas's one state NPL site selection under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This nomination has the support of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, local citizens, stakeholders and elected officials. There is no other viable cleanup alternative.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination.]

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at <a href="http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html">http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html</a> or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.